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Extension Service  
U. S. Department of Agriculture

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF THE EUROPEAN CORN BORER IN THE  
MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES AS FORMULATED BY A CONFERENCE OF ENTOMOLOGISTS  
OF THESE STATES AND THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AT  
BALTIMORE, MD., JANUARY 14, 1944

Reserve  
Destroy overwintering borers.

The borers survive the winter as larvae in the stalks of field or sweet corn and coarse-stemmed weeds. Every effort should be made to eliminate as many as possible of these overwintering borers. Initial spring infestations can be materially reduced by applying one or more of the methods listed below before the moths emerge in the spring (April 1 to May 15, depending upon locality). Application of these methods on a community basis is necessary for the most effective control.

1. Feeding to livestock:

- a. Cut infested plants as close to the ground as possible.
- b. Use for silage
- c. Shred finely or chop into pieces as fine as possible, preferably not over 1/2 inch in length. Proper shredding or chopping will kill as high as 98 percent of the borers.
- d. Feed stalks direct from field, collecting and destroying the uneaten parts by plowing them under cleanly or if necessary by burning, unless they are trampled completely by livestock and thoroughly mixed with the manure of the feed lot.

2. Plow under cleanly, using attachments such as trash shields, wires, or chains to insure burial of all stalks deeply and cleanly to a depth that will prevent their being again brought to surface by later cultivation.

- a. Proper plow adjustments and use of attachments are essential to good coverage.
- b. Disking in itself will not control the borers, but, when done ahead of plowing will aid in doing a clean job.
- c. Where erosion is a problem, spring instead of fall plowing may be desirable. If fall plowing and seeding are done, they should be on the contour. A fall grain or grass cover crop may be seeded in cornstalks or stubble and plowed under cleanly before moth emergence in spring.

3. All corn refuse that cannot be destroyed by other methods should be burned.



B. Time of planting.

Plant as late as practicable, but only within the normal planting period adapted to the locality.

C. Plant resistant or tolerant hybrids.

1. No immune strains are available, but hybrids differ in their resistance and tolerance depending on their parentage.
2. Select types that will mature when planted moderately late.
3. Consult county agent or State experiment station on best hybrids to plant in any particular locality.

D. Special cropping practice.

1. Where small grains or other crops for harvest are to follow corn, the cornstalks should be plowed under cleanly, or cut at ground level and removed, before seeding.
2. Early sweet cornstalks in fields and gardens should be disposed of immediately after the ears have been harvested. This can be done by putting them in the silo, feeding them, or plowing them under. Cobs and other remnants from the cannery should be disposed of in the same manner.

E. Insecticides.

1. No recommendations can be made at this time for the use of insecticides for the control of corn borer in field or canning corn.
2. Early market or home garden sweet corn may be profitably protected from the corn borer by the proper use of insecticides. Consult your county extension agent or State experiment station for current recommendations.

IMPORTANT:

Corn-borer control in critical areas cannot be accomplished by any single practice suggested above. The grower should adopt as many of the operations as he finds to be practicable under his conditions, considering the corn borer as only one of the many environmental factors affecting corn production.